

Voice - The style of your paper. What gives your paper personality.

**Example: formal or informal;
humorous or serious;
persuasive, emotional,
business-like, etc.**

Things to think about when evaluating in this category:

- ◉ Is it obvious that I'm enthusiastic about my topic? Does my excitement show in my writing?
- ◉ Does this writing sound like me? Is it unique to me and me only?
- ◉ How do I want my readers to feel when they read my writing?
- ◉ Does the voice of my story help to keep my reader's attention? Do they want to hear more?
- ◉ Who is my audience? What kind of voice do they require?

Tools to help with Voice:

• Thesaurus

- choosing the right words will help with your voice.
 - Why use "sad" when you can use "depressed, melancholy, grieving, or mourning"

• Adjective and adverbs

- add these to make your writing more exciting.
 - Do you want to read about "the boy"? Or do you want to read about "the rambunctious, five-year-old boy with dimples and a mop of brown hair who had an insatiable curiosity"?

• Imagery

- spice up your voice by helping the reader to "see" what you are writing about.
 - Engage the five senses. Help your readers to see the scary house, experience the thrilling roller coaster, and enjoy the surprise party.

⦿ No voice -

I went canoeing with friends. They brought their dog. It was hot outside. The water felt good. The dog liked to play in the water with us. We all got wet. It was fun!

⦿ Voice -

One sizzling August afternoon my friends and I cruised down the Wisconsin River on a bright red canoe. Their energetic golden retriever, Paddington, rode along with us. Whenever one of us would shout, "Switch sides," Paddington would jump up and dance around. One time he leaped so high, he tipped the bouncing boat. We all flopped into the water splashing and laughing like baby seals. What fun!

Rewrite the following story, but spice it up and give it its own unique voice.

It was a sunny day. My friends and I went to the pool. It was crowded because it was so hot. It was nice to be in the cool water. We saw some cute guys. Tricia jumped off the high dive to impress some cute guys. She ended up belly flopping into the water. That must have hurt. Afterwards we got some ice cream. By the time we got home we all could feel the sting of our sunburns. We helped each other spread aloe over our burned areas and then sat under a fan. It helped with the burning. When my mom got home and saw us she laughed at us. It was a good day.